

## BUILD SKILLS

### The Fall of the House of Usher • The Raven

#### LITERARY ANALYSIS

Edgar Allan Poe argued that a short story should be constructed to achieve a **single effect**. Poe believed that every character, event, and detail should contribute to this single effect. As you read, consider the ways in which Poe writes to produce a single effect.

Both “The Fall of the House of Usher” and “The Raven” are examples of **Gothic literature**. The Gothic style uses the following elements:

- bleak or remote settings
- gruesome or violent plot incidents
- tormented and disturbed characters
- supernatural or otherworldly events

As you read, pay attention to how Poe uses different Gothic elements.

#### READING STRATEGY

Long, complex sentences can challenge your understanding. A good strategy is to **break down long sentences** into logical parts. First, look for the sentence’s subject and verb. Then, look for other clues, such as punctuation, conjunctions, and modifying words. Use this chart to break down some of Poe’s lengthy sentences into manageable parts.

Sentence		
↓ Subject _____	↓ Verb _____	↓ Object _____